

Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty

Chairperson's Annual Report 2025-2026

Prepared by Andrew Langman for the Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty AGM

It is my pleasure to present this Chairperson's Report for the past year. As I step down from the role at the upcoming AGM, I want to reflect on the key activities of the Board over this period and acknowledge the many people who have contributed to our progress.

Governance and Leadership

Over the past year, the Board has focused on strengthening governance foundations and progressing key organisational priorities. A significant milestone early in the year was the completion and approval of a new Constitution, which was formally adopted and subsequently filed with the Companies Office in November 2025. Thank you again to all the clubs that joined the Special General Meeting, it was greatly appreciated. This new constitution has provided a stronger governance framework and enabled new opportunities. The Board has also worked to ensure ongoing renewal and capability by progressing recruitment for new Board members, including the use of an appointments panel and identifying skill gaps to strengthen governance capability.

Strategy and Planning

A key focus for the Board has been the implementation of our Strategic Plan. Work has been undertaken to break down the strategic pillars into deliverable actions, with further refinement required to ensure clear priorities, measurable outcomes, and alignment with available resources. The Board has recognised the importance of ensuring that strategy translates into tangible delivery, with discussion highlighting the need for clear ownership and achievable implementation plans.

Financial Sustainability and Funding

Financial sustainability has been a major focus area throughout the year. The Board made the decision to discontinue the event entry fee levy from 31 March 2026. In parallel, significant effort has been put into funding applications and exploring new funding opportunities. This includes applications to a range of funding organisations to support operational costs, equipment, events, and athlete development initiatives.

Growth, Participation and Community

Supporting clubs and growing participation has remained central to Board discussions. The Board has considered a range of initiatives to strengthen engagement with clubs and communities, including:

- Exploring event series and alternative event models to build participation and generate revenue
- Considering delivery of skills and movement programmes to schools and clubs

- Supporting regional presence at national events to strengthen athlete connection and identity
- There has also been recognition of the challenges faced by smaller clubs, particularly those run by volunteers with limited capacity, and the need to balance support with sustainability.

Projects and Key Initiatives

Several important initiatives have been progressed during the year:

- **Branding Project:** Work has commenced on developing a unified brand identity for AWBOP, with a focus on representing both regions equally and creating a cohesive organisational identity
- **Website Upgrade:** Approval has been given to upgrade the website platform to improve functionality, communication, and engagement with members.
- **Event Delivery and Support:** Continued focus on key events such as the Colgate Games and Porritt Classic, including funding, infrastructure, and planning considerations.
- The Board has also endorsed funding initiatives for equipment and event delivery, including timing systems and measuring devices.

Acknowledgements

I would like to sincerely thank all Board members, past and present, for their time, commitment, and thoughtful contributions throughout the year. Your willingness to engage in constructive discussion and decision-making has been invaluable.

A special thank you to our General Manager, Kevin Endres, for his ongoing work in progressing initiatives, supporting operations, and working closely with the Board across a wide range of priorities.

To all our volunteers, officials, and club members—thank you. The strength of athletics in our region is built on your dedication and passion. Many of our clubs operate with limited resources and rely heavily on volunteer support, and your contribution does not go unnoticed. I would also like to acknowledge those who have contributed to the wider athletics community, including individuals recognised for their service to the sport.

Closing Remarks

I will be stepping down as President and Chairperson at the AGM. It has been a privilege to serve in this role and to work alongside a committed Board and wider athletics community. I am proud of the progress made this year, particularly in strengthening governance, progressing strategic planning, and laying the groundwork for future growth. While there is still work ahead, the organisation is well positioned to continue building momentum and delivering value to its members and communities.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported me during my time as President and Chairperson of the Board. I look forward to seeing Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty continue to grow and succeed in the years ahead.

Andrew Langman

President and Chairperson